GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3139
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
PROMOTION OF LANGUAGES DIALECTS
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in the country where Gondi language is spoken and its percentage among the tribal languages;

(b) whether the Gondi language has been adopted as compulsory subject at primary level in the States where it is spoken;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) the reasons for not providing any Government of constitutional protection to the Gondi language despite it being the largest spoken language among the tribal language/dialects;

(e) the language/dialects wise details of the expenditure being incurred for the development expenditure of language and dialects in the country; and

(f) the tribal dialects wise amount being spent alongwith the expenditure incurred for the development of dialects of Chattisgarh during the past one year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a): As per the Census of 1991 Gondi language speakers have been found in 24 States and UTs in the country. As there is no notified list of tribal languages, it is not possible to work out the percentage of Gondi language speakers among the tribal languages.

(b) & (c) : The adoption of any language as a compulsory subject at the primary level in the States is a decision of the concerned State Governments.

(d): The Language policy of the Government of India lays emphasis on the development and promotion of all the Indian languages listed in the VIIIth Schedule of theConstitution. The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore,under the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been carrying out research in tribal languages including Gondi. The Institute also provides inputs to various State Governments for their promotional activities for various tribal languages including Gondi. Besides, several State Governments have their own programmes for the development of Gondi language.

(e) & (f) : Expenditure is incurred by the Government on the promotion and development of all the Indian languages including tribal languages. This is need-based and amounts are not earmarked separately for different languages.